

Idaho Logging Safety News

Published quarterly in the interest of logging safety by the
Division of Building Safety, Logging Safety Bureau

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Dave Munroe, Administrator



I know it's hard to believe, but the annual spring training is about to begin. As in past years, this training will consist of a first aid update including emergency rescue as well as the OSHA required training in Blood Borne Pathogens, Hazard Communication, Tag Out-Energy Control and Hearing Conservation. All loggers and truck drivers are required to have a current first aid card.

Complementary coffee and doughnuts provided by local dealers will be served at 7:00 A.M. and the classes will start promptly at 8:00 A.M. and be finished by noon. All loggers and their spouses are welcome to attend.

As you will note on the schedule, the classes marked with an asterisk will be followed by a 1 ½ day LEAP update. This training, plus the first aid, will satisfy the 16 credits that are necessary for the Pro-Logger continuing education. For those people staying for the LEAP classes, you will need to take care of your own lunches. To register for the LEAP update, contact your Extension Office. **SEE PAGE 2 FOR FIRST AID TRAINING SCHEDULE**

THE DUMMY AND HIS HELPERS

This is part of Frank Howerton's crew from Coeur d'Alene. I caught these fellows in the shop one day and they graciously volunteered to help with a first aid video for the upcoming classes in March & April. Thanks guys!

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and
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ANNUAL FIRST AID TRAINING SCHEDULE

(continued)

LOCATION	DATE	ADDRESS
*Deary	Tuesday, March 1	Community Center, 1010 Desjardin Rd.
Sandpoint	Wednesday, March 2	Bonner County Fairgrounds
*Coeur d'Alene	Thursday, March 3	Armory, 5555 E. Seltice Way
Wallace	Tuesday, March 8	Wallace Civic Mem Auditorium 401 River St
*St. Maries (1)	Wednesday, March 9	Eagle's, 707 Main Street
Harvard	Thursday, March 10	Pines RV Park, 4510 Hwy 6, Harvard
New Meadows	Tuesday, March 15	New Meadows Senior Center
*Orofino	Wednesday, March 16	Armory, 10210 Hwy 12
*Bonners Ferry	Tuesday, March 22	Boundary County Fairgrounds
St. Maries (2)	Wednesday, March 23	Eagle's, 707 Main Street
Grangeville	Thursday, March 24	Elk's Lodge, 111 S. Meadow
Pierce	Tuesday, April 12	Pierce Community Center
Emmett	Wednesday, April 13	Gem County Senior Citizen Center
St. Anthony	Thursday, April 14	S Freemont Senior Ctr, 420 N. Bridge St. D

* These Classes are followed by a 1 ½ day LEAP update

NEARLY A MISS



I have to tell this story on one of my friends, not to pick on him but to remind all of you about something that we've nearly all done (I know I have).

This logger was falling over size timber on their cut-to-length operation. Spotting a large tree from the road he parked his pickup and headed up the hill to fall the tree. There were actually two trees growing together and he was going to fall the one on the uphill side from the road (and his pickup). He said the tree leaned slightly uphill and being directly behind the other tree, there was no question where it was going. This is where the plot thickens! My guess is that he dutch cut the uphill side of the notch and when he accidentally cut the holding wood, he found that he had made the perfect swing cut. The tree rolled around the lower tree and fell straight down the hill. Apparently Dodge has now come out with a new forwarder that attracts the magnet that is attached to all trees that will reach anything made of metal. ☺

DEAN LOGGING

Deary, Idaho
By Cliff Osborne



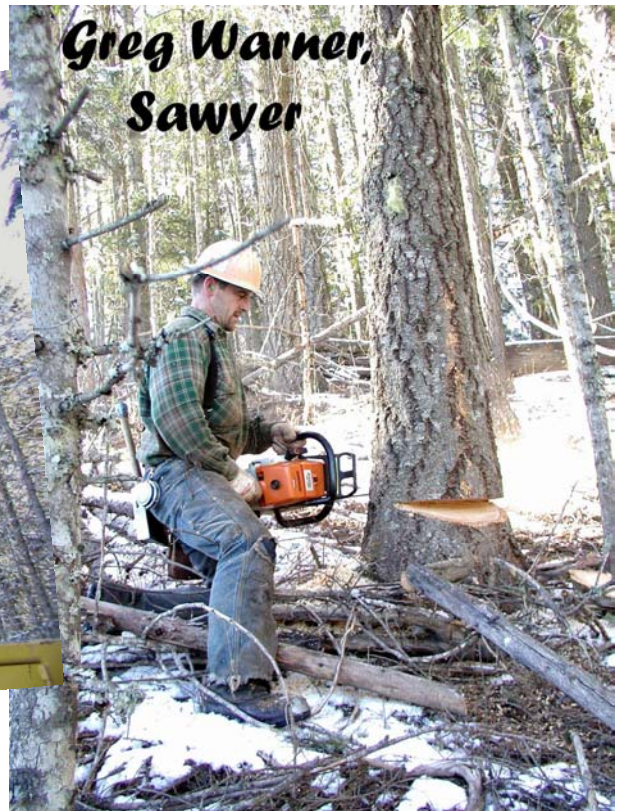
Roy Bogar,
*Line Machine
Operator*

Tom Dean started up his logging business after the Potlatch Corporation logging operation shut down. Tom was a sawyer for Potlatch and the corporation offered their employee's an opportunity to become independent logging contractors after they liquidated. Tom started with one small John Deere crawler but through the years his company has grown to include three crews, several processors, five trucks and a line machine.

As with all loggers that have been able to stay in business, Tom realized that safety was going to be very important if he was going to be around for the long haul. ©



Greg Warner,
Sawyer





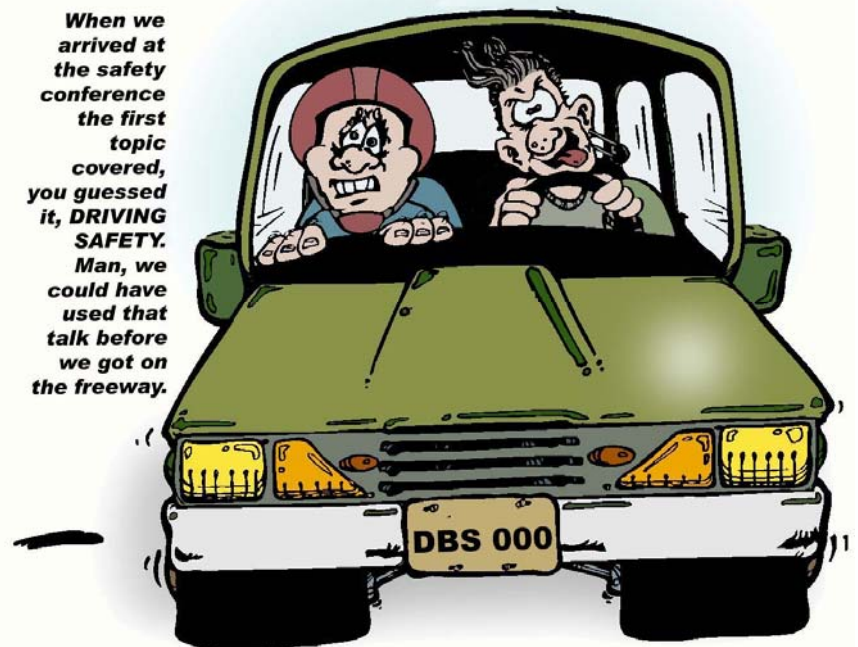
When we arrived at the safety conference the first topic covered, you guessed it, **DRIVING SAFETY**. Man, we could have used that talk before we got on the freeway. The fellow giving the presentation, Syd Muzzy, had lost his son in an accident years ago and basically dedicated his life toward teaching people to drive safely. Mr. Muzzy has overcome many obstacles in his life and is highly intelligent, funny and sincere. He is one of those fellows you wish your family, friends and acquaintances could spend some time with. Through demonstrations, he showed how reaching for something, getting something in your eye or being distracted in any

number of ways for just a fraction of a second, can lead to an accident. Among the many other issues he covered was the fact that 80,000 people died in vehicle accidents in the U.S. last year. Think about that for a second! **Continued on page 5**

Cliff and I traveled with Dan Musselman across the vast wilderness areas of Washington to attend their Logging Safety Conference held in Olympia the first part of January. Washington is a neat state with open spaces, tall trees and a lot of logging going on. Once you get over toward the coast however, they also have quite a significant supply of people. It appeared to us that on that particular Friday afternoon they were all driving down the same road we were. Apparently the way you are supposed to drive on those huge freeways is for everyone to go as fast as your vehicle can travel, all the while veering back and forth through the traffic, and then all of a sudden slam on your brakes coming to a complete stop to see if the rig behind you can stop before it hits you.

Even though Cliff and I are from huge metropolitan areas (Potlatch and Horseshoe Bend) this traffic was just too much. Thankfully Dan was behind the wheel and since he grew up driving on the street of Pierce, this was easy for him to handle. In fact we were so darn proud of how Dan handled that three hours on the freeway, Cliff and I decided to buy him a soda when we finally reached the motel. Which we did, after we pried his hands off the steering wheel and got him to quit screaming.

*When we arrived at the safety conference the first topic covered, you guessed it, **DRIVING SAFETY**. Man, we could have used that talk before we got on the freeway.*



Washington Logging Safety Conference

(continued)

- **Synthetic Rope** taking the place of steel rope was also one of the topics covered. Testing is being done on the synthetic rope in just about all applications of logging and there have been some good results. One use that caught my eye was as wrappers. The insurance guy has been yelling at us for sometime now about the injuries truck drivers receive throwing their wrappers. The synthetic is so much lighter than the steel that it would surely save on some of those shoulder injuries.

- **Safe Rigging and Yarding** practices were also covered in great detail with way too much information to pass along in this article. The fellow did talk about comparing the cost of taking the time to rig a yarder right the first time to what it costs to retrieve the yarder from over the bank. I think we can apply that thinking to most of what goes on in the woods. He also recommended that ALL stumps being used for rigging be notched. Even when the angle seems to show there is no way the line can come off, it can!

- **Truck Inspection** was the last topic of the day. It was just a reminder to keep an eye out on your equipment when you do your walk around, wash your truck and when you grease. He also mentioned if you are finding loose or broken bolts in the same area, like on the frame, something else might be going on there and needs extra attention. They talked about some accidents that started with broken trailer reaches so maybe during layoff it would be a good time to slide that reach out and inspect it.

The Washington guys are a bunch of good people and put on an excellent conference. Now, if they could just do something about that traffic. Maybe next year we will go through in the morning and beat the rush, say around 7:30 or 8:00. I can't wait to tell Dan about my plan! ☺

***Bill Pickell**, Washington Contract Loggers Association, and **Dan Musselman**, Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho, get some valuable advice from our own **Cliff Osborne**. As we all know, sometimes Cliff's knowledge can be overwhelming. In this case it left Bill and Dan laughing hysterically.*



GARY REGEHR LOGGING

These are a few of the loggers that work or subcontract for Gary Regehr Logging out of Bonners Ferry. They are all good men that know how to produce wood and at the same time, do it safely.

I caught **Dave Moseley** filing his chain. Apparently he was trying to keep up with the Timbco.



Frank Hanks and Pat Atkins

Pat runs one of the three Timbco's that Frank and Dave Inc. own. Frank Hanks and Dave Jacobsen own this company that does custom cutting and this one machine spends nearly all of it's time working for Gary

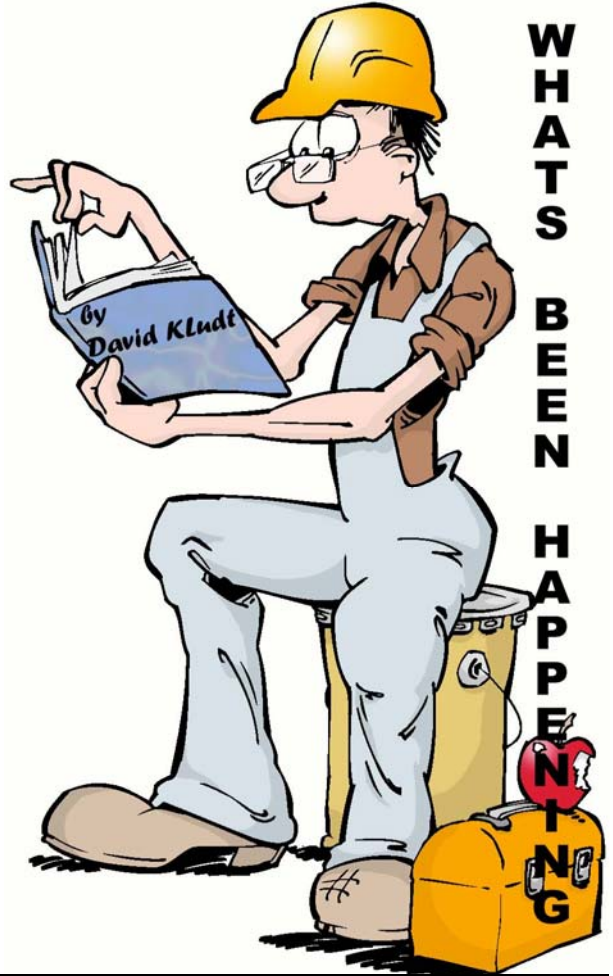
Carl Smith operates the dangle head processor and is as good as I've seen.



By now most of you have pretty well finished with your winter logging. I don't think I've ever seen a winter quite like it. With the cold weather coming in late December and very little snow as I write this article (mid January), It's been an ideal logging season. With the good weather conditions accidents were certainly down, although we had our share of slips and falls. After last fall (September) anything is a relief.

As you read this news letter you will note there is numerous training offered once again this spring. First aid, LEAP, Fire Training, conventions, sawmill meetings, log quality meetings and many more. These all count towards the Pro-Logger credits. I know there will be other training offered this spring, so if there are any questions about what you need or what may be available, call the ALC office in Coeur d'Alene at 1-800-632-8743 or 208-667-6473.

Looking back at 2004, we experienced three logging fatalities plus a couple of truck driver fatalities. These will have some affect on insurance rates down the road but usually aren't as costly as some of the other accidents that occur. Once again timber fallers and hookers still remain on top of the list of those having the most serious and costly injuries. Amazingly, insurance rates should remain stable for 2005. When you consider rising medical costs, you loggers are doing a heck of a job. SAFETY PAYS!! We certainly appreciate the effort that the loggers have put forth and hope that will continue into 2005. ☺

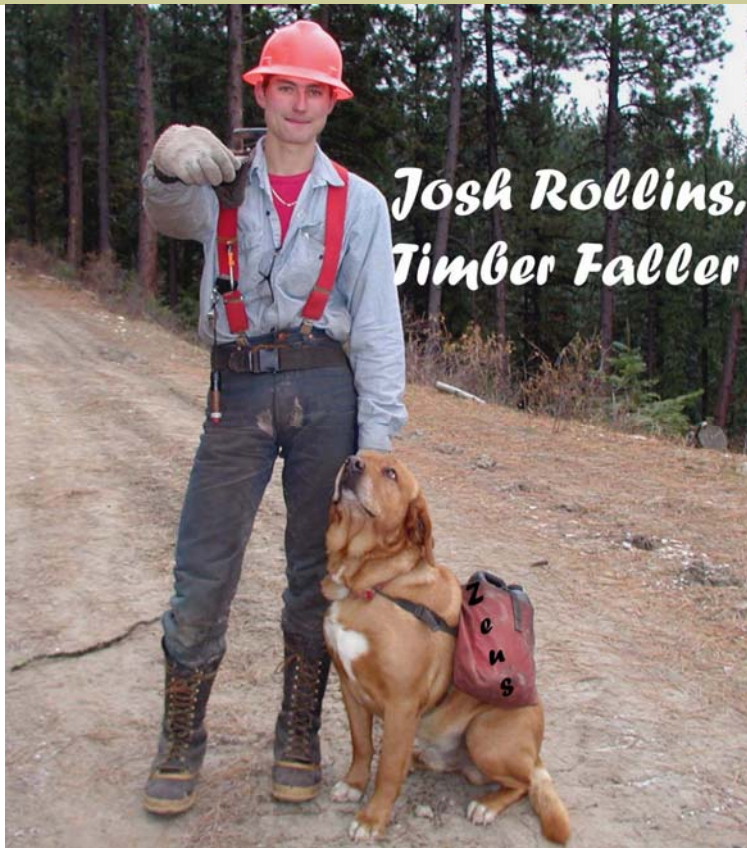


A truck driver was injured when he pulled his wrappers over a load of fiber logs. One of the six inch logs became dislodged when the wrapper got hung around the end of it. When the driver pulled on the wrapper the log shot off the load and struck him in the chest. He received several broken ribs from the incident and will have to endure the pain until the injury heals.

SAFETY NEWS

A sawyer received an injured shoulder and lacerations to his head when he was struck by a snag. The faller had fell a tree and was long butting it when a snag that he had overlooked came down.

The logger was helicoptered to the hospital where he was checked out for neck and back injuries and, luckily, was released.



(Zeus is the one doing the work)

It seems like it was just a couple of months ago when I first met Josh, a kid just out of high school, learning to fall timber from his dad. When I happened to run into him the other day on a logging job, I noticed he had grown about a foot and put on fifty pounds of muscle. I mentioned to him that he had really sprouted this past summer. That is when he said, "Galen, since the last time I saw you I have gotten married and now have a three year old kid". Time is going by in a hurry boys!

One thing we keep hearing is that there are no good, young people in the woods anymore. Josh proves that theory wrong. He has a great attitude, works hard and safe, and still thinks he can learn a lot about his profession. Quite refreshing!

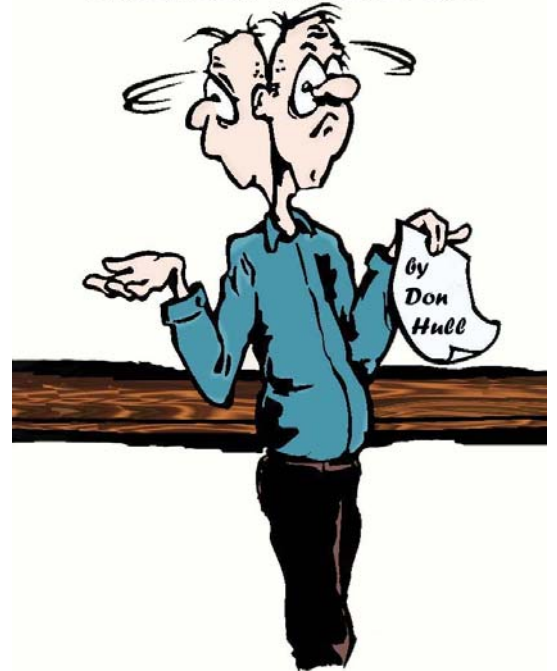
One thing about Zeus packing Josh's jugs. Zeus was clear down by the pickup when I showed up. Josh said the dog stays clear out of the way until he calls him, then retreats to a safe distance when Josh goes back to falling. It seems the dog knows it isn't safe to get too close to where trees are being fell. I wonder if there is a lesson in there somewhere? ☺

I went on a logging job earlier this month just north of town. It was warm and rainy so the guys weren't opposed to my being there, in fact they kind of wanted to chat about some safety issues that had come up.

The meeting started with the owner talking about one of his fallers that had a near miss. He was watching his faller cut a fair sized tree and noticed that the faller hadn't put in much of an under cut. It probably would have been OK if the tree was leaning in the right direction, but you and I know how often that happens. He said the faller cut the back cut and all of a sudden things didn't look right and he decided to get the heck out of there. Apparently the logger was running and looking back at the same time and ran smack into another tree. It knocked him out colder than a wedge. When he came to it took him quite a while to figure out that the tree he was falling hadn't hit him. Apparently you need eyes on every side of your head when you're falling timber!

They also talked about one of the guys that had rolled a skidder. When help arrived the operator was hanging upside down by the seat belt. What brought up this subject? I was telling them about an accident that I had investigated a few days earlier where an operator rolled a skidder and was not wearing a belt. He received some pretty serious injuries and will miss a considerable amount of work. I'm confident that he wouldn't have had any injuries, or if he did, they would have been very minor had he been wearing the seat belt. We decided that with the super cabs and all the grapple riggin out there now, there is probably no reason not to buckle up. ☺

A COUPLE OF NEAR MISSES



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I CHOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY

By Don Merrill

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, He knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

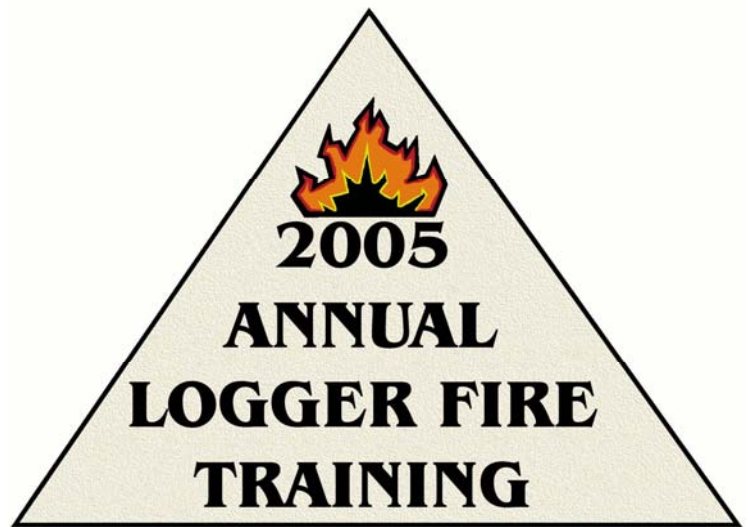
Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

The following is a fire training schedule for this spring. Some of the classes will follow the morning first aid classes and will allow for a lunch break. Other classes will be offered in areas where there are LEAP classes, so be sure to compare this with the first aid schedule for your area.

Deary	Monday, Feb 28 (8am to 12) Deary Community Center	
Coeur d'Alene	Wednesday, March 2 (12:30 to 5pm) Department of Lands Staff Office	
Wallace	Tuesday, March 8 (after 1 st aid) Wallace Civic Memorial Auditorium, 401 River Street	
Sandpoint	Tuesday, March 8 (8am to 1pm)	Bonner County Fairgrounds
Orofino	Tuesday, March 22 (8am to 12)	Armory, 10210 Hwy 12
St. Maries	Wednesday, March 23 (after 1 st aid)	Eagle's Lodge
Grangeville	Thursday, March 24 (after 1 st aid)	Elk's Lodge
Pierce	Tuesday, April 12 (after 1 st aid)	Pierce Community Center (lunch provided by C-PTPA)
Emmett	Wednesday, April 13 (after 1 st aid)	Gem County Senior Citizen Ct.



Classes are also being planned for New Meadows and Bonners Ferry but times and dates have not yet been set.

ACCI-

A timber faller was severely injured when he was struck in the head by a tree. The faller can't remember much about the accident, but this is what the crew thought might have happened.

Apparently he was falling a tree into another tree that was hung up in an effort to get it on the ground. He probably knew this tree might do some weird stuff when it hit the hanger and was in a hurry to get out of the area. It appeared he may have left the stump a little too soon because the tree barber-chaired, shooting the butt backwards. He was still O.K. until the barber chair broke off the stump and hit a broken off stob, knocking it over on the faller.

Not picking on this fellow at all, this is a perfect example of one little thing going wrong (hanging up the first tree) leading to a series of events that ended with an accident. Looking back at fatalities and other serious accidents, many of them started exactly this way. One little thing going wrong!



? Who is teaching our future citizens about sustainable forestry and the forest products industry? How will those future citizens make informed choices about appropriate uses of our renewable natural resources? Our teachers are a major force in educating those future voters and users of wood-the renewable natural resource. Help get the facts in the hands of our educators by finding teachers and sponsors for the:

Sustainable Forestry Tour June 22-25, 2005

An Outstanding Educational Opportunity for Teachers!

Tour North Central Idaho's Forests to learn about sustainable forestry
A trip of a lifetime! Tour & Travel Expenses Paid - VIP Treatment - Two Credits

This is what a teacher said when asked, would you recommend this tour to other teachers? "Absolutely! The best part of this program is getting out of a classroom setting and seeing, smelling, and feeling the whole process of managed forestry (from tree to factory to product). Excellent stuff!!"

For more information, visit www.idahoforests.org or contact Harold Osborne, Tour Coordinator, 208-875-1471, hosborne@potlatch.com or contact the Idaho Forest Products Commission, 208-334-4061, plt@idahoforests.org



Application deadline: 3/31/05. Applicants will be notified by 4/15/05.

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The Idaho Logging Safety News

Is published quarterly by the Logging Safety Bureau and is prepared by the
Division of Building Safety, Rachel Manning, Administrative Assistant.

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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